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# April-May 2009

Yosemite Falls and Merced River flood. Photo by Bethany Gediman

Where to Go and What to Do in Yosemite National Park

April 15 - May 26, 2009

# Yosemite Guide



# Things to Do

Keep this Guide with you to get the most out of your visit

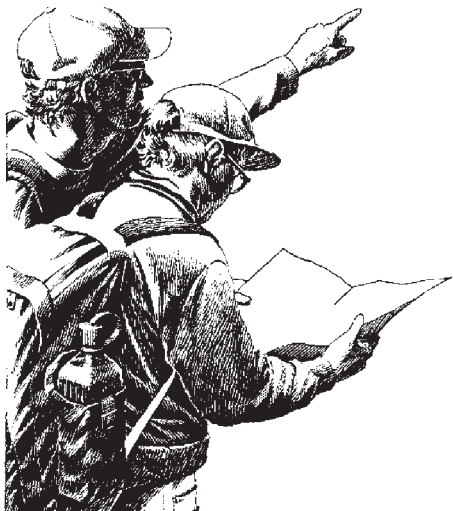


Illustration by Lawrence W. Duke

What do you want to do with your special time in Yosemite? The choice is yours. But to give you some ideas, park rangers made a list of possibilities for springtime adventure.

In no particular order, here are 10 popular activities for a day in Yosemite National Park.

### Walk to a Waterfall

The Valley is famous for its awe-inspiring waterfalls. As distinct as the granite cliffs they dive over, taking a walk to the base of a waterfall is well worth it. Yosemite Falls is a short walk from Yosemite Lodge and Yosemite Village. You can also venture farther to Happy Isles, where the trail to Vernal Fall and Nevada Fall begins. (See the Valley map on the back of this Guide.)

### Explore a Sequoia Grove

Meet the most massive living trees on earth as you explore a sequoia grove. Yosemite is home to three groves—each



Junior Ranger program. See page 3 for times and meeting places. NPS photo by Greg Nespor

## How to Use Your Yosemite Guide

The list on this page offers 10 popular things to do. The table of contents (“What’s Inside...”) at lower right shows where you can turn for more information. A detailed listing of program information can be found on page 3.

within walking distance of a road. (See map on page 2 and program listings on page 3.)

### Visit the Yosemite Museum

Learn about Yosemite Indians by exploring a museum collection that includes remarkable woven baskets and traditional dress. Tour the outdoor Indian Village or talk with an Indian cultural demonstrator. The Yosemite Museum is located in Yosemite Village at

shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 6.)

### Take a Photography Class

Learn how to best capture the landscape of Yosemite by joining a photography expert from the Ansel Adams Gallery. Several classes are offered each week. Some have fees, some are free. Learn more and sign up at the Ansel Adams Gallery located in Yosemite Village. Shuttle stops #5 and #9. (See page 3.)



Violet green swallow. By Lauren Hamilton

### Hike to Mirror Lake

Situated at the base of Half Dome, Mirror Lake frames reflections of Yosemite’s most iconic cliff. The quiet trail is gentle and follows Tenaya Creek as it winds its way through the eastern Valley. The trail starts at shuttle stop #17. (See Valley map on the back of this Guide.) Portions of trail closed due to rockfall.

### Meander Through a Meadow

Behold some of Yosemite’s majestic waterfalls and massive cliffs or wildflowers and wild animals from one of the meadows found throughout the park. Enjoy these lush wetlands while preserving their fragile nature by staying on established paths and boardwalks.

### Tour The Ahwahnee

Step back to an earlier era of history as you explore the National Historic Landmark that opened in 1927. Notable for its architecture and artful décor, the hotel provides a cozy atmosphere to relax and enjoy a warm drink in. (“Food & Beverage,” page 7.)

### Drive to Tunnel View

One of the most famous views of Yosemite Valley, Tunnel View has captivated visitors for over 75 years. Newly rehabilitated, it offers expansive views of El Capitan, Clouds Rest, Half Dome, and Bridalveil Fall. (See map, page 2.)

### Stroll with a Ranger

Learn about the wonders of the park on a ranger-guided stroll. Programs are offered daily in Yosemite Valley on a variety of topics including waterfalls, bears, geology, trees, Yosemite Indians and more. Check the program guide for locations and topics. (See page 3.)

### See Half Dome at Sunset

Towering more than 4,000 feet above the eastern end of Yosemite Valley, Half Dome compels eyes to gaze on it. Sunset lights up the cliff face, creating a dramatic and colorful scene. Witness the effect from Sentinel Bridge or one of the meadows near Yosemite Village or Curry Village. (See the Valley map on the back of this Guide.)

## Welcome, and Be Prepared



Get ready for a wild experience. Yosemite is a place of moving beauty—and unpredictable forces. Be attentive to the rules in place to protect the park (page 9) and your safety (page 8).

### Fire – Police – Medical Emergency: Dial 911

**Website:** [www.nps.gov/yose/](http://www.nps.gov/yose/)

**Road, Weather, and General Park Information:** 209/372-0200

### Access for People With Disabilities

The *Yosemite Accessibility Guide* is available at park entrance stations, visitor centers, and on-line at [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm). TTYs are available inside Yosemite Lodge and The Ahwahnee, and outside the Valley Visitor Center and Curry Village office.

Accessible parking spaces are available just west of the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center. To reach these, enter the Valley on Southside Drive. Turn left on Sentinel Drive.



Turn left on Northside Drive, and follow the blue-and-white accessibility signs.

A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Call 209/372-0645 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 weeks is requested. Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request. Inquire at a visitor center.

### Lost and Found

To inquire about items lost or found at one of Yosemite’s restaurants, hotels, lounges, shuttle buses, or tour services, call 209/372-4357. For items lost or found in other areas of the park, call 209/379-1001.

### Weather

Sudden changes in weather are common in the Sierra Nevada. Check at a park visitor center for the most up-to-date weather forecast. You can find the latest on NOAA Weather Radio station KAD-94 at 162.450 MHz. Reception may not be available in remote areas.

### Road Information

Construction may cause short delays or detours on some park roads. Call 209/372-0200 for road information.

## What’s Inside:

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# Discover Yosemite

Let your curiosity guide you to new places

## Entrance Fees

Reservations are NOT required to enter Yosemite. The park is open year-round, 24 hours a day.

**Vehicle                                 \$20**  
Valid for 7 days

**Individual                             \$10**  
In a bus, on foot, bicycle, motorcycle, or horse. Valid for 7 days.

**Yosemite Pass                       \$40**  
Valid for one year in Yosemite.

**Interagency Annual Pass \$80**  
Valid for one year at all federal recreation sites.

**Interagency Senior Pass \$10**  
(Lifetime)  
For U.S. citizens or permanent residents 62 and over.

**Interagency Access Pass (Free)**  
(Lifetime)  
For permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

## Reservations

**Campground Reservations**  
877/444-6777  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

**Lodging Reservations**  
801/559-5000  
[www.yosemitepark.com](http://www.yosemitepark.com)

## Regional Info

**Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS)** [www.yarts.com](http://www.yarts.com)

**West Highway 120**  
Yosemite Chamber of Commerce  
800/449-9120 or 209/962-0429  
Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau  
800/446-1333  
[www.thegreatunfenced.com](http://www.thegreatunfenced.com)

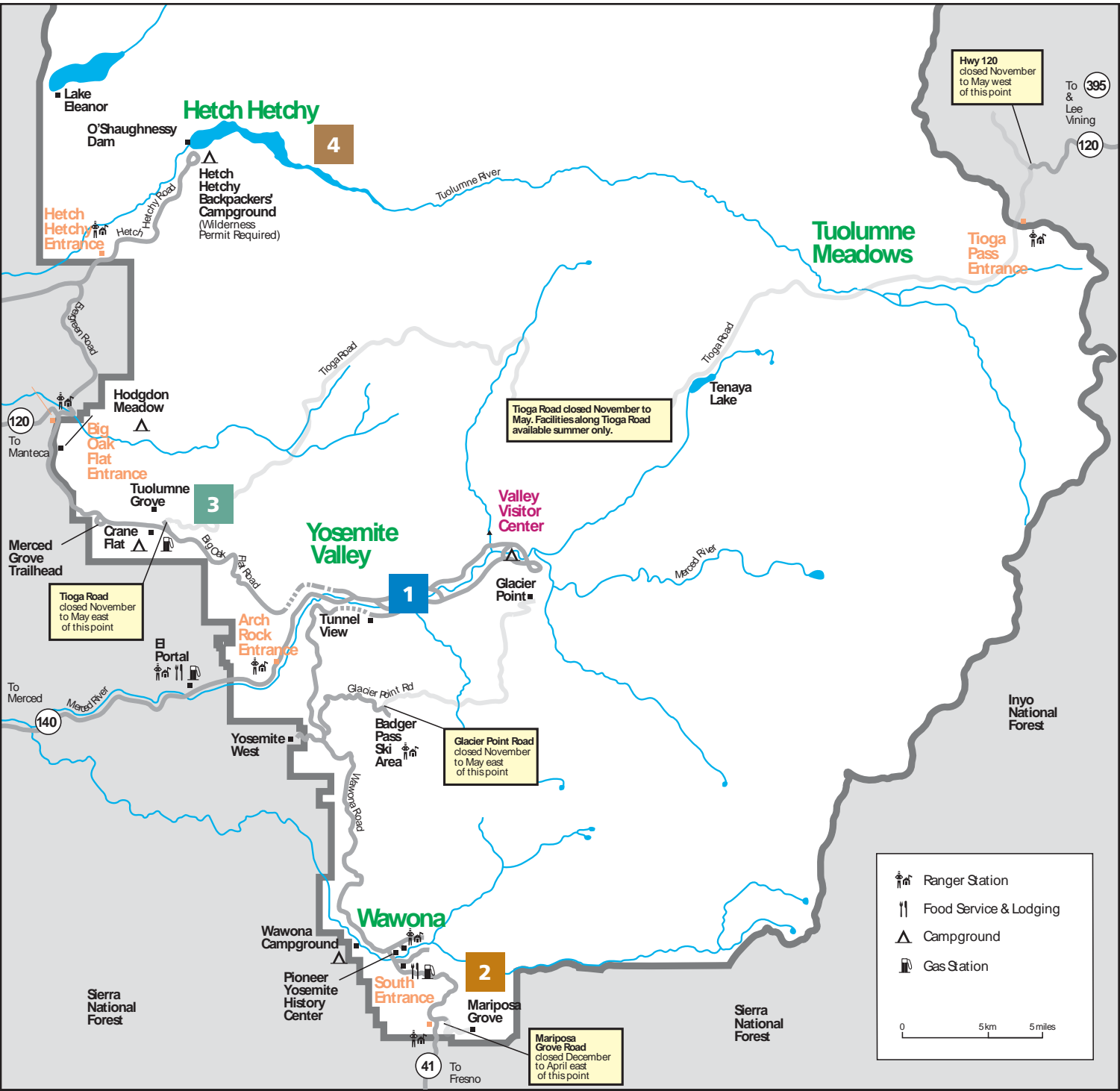
**Highway 41**  
Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau  
559/683-4636  
[www.yosemitethisyear.com](http://www.yosemitethisyear.com)

**Highway 132/49**  
Coulterville Visitor Center  
209/878-3074

**Highway 140/49**  
Yosemite Mariposa Tourism Bureau  
866/425-3366 or 209/966-7081  
[www.homeofyosemite.com](http://www.homeofyosemite.com)

**Highway 120 East**  
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce and Mono Lake Visitor Center, 760/647-6629  
[www.leevining.com](http://www.leevining.com)

California Welcome Center, Merced  
800/446-5353 or 209/384-2791  
[www.yosemite-gateway.org](http://www.yosemite-gateway.org)



## Yosemite Valley

**1** Even if you've been here before, the Valley is packed with wonders to keep you exploring. Campsite reservations are limited, but the Valley is open every day and may be reached via Highway 41 from Fresno, Highway 140 from Merced, Highway 120 west from Manteca. Here you will find the park's main visitor center—a base for further exploration.

## Wawona and Mariposa Grove

**2** The Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias is located 36 miles (1¼ hours) south of Yosemite Valley via the Wawona Road (Highway 41), two miles from the park's South Entrance station. The road to the Mariposa Grove is closed to cars from sometime in December to April. The nearby Pioneer Yosemite History Center in Wawona is a collection of historic buildings associated with people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite.

## Crane Flat

**3** Crane Flat is a pleasant forest and meadow area located 16 miles from Yosemite Valley at the junction of Big Oak Flat and Tioga Roads. To see giant sequoias, park at the Tuolumne Grove parking area, and walk one steep mile down to the Tuolumne Grove of Giant Sequoias. Or, park at Merced Grove trailhead and walk two steep miles down to this small grove.

## Hetch Hetchy

**4** Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, a source of drinking water and hydroelectric power for the City of San Francisco, is also home to spectacular scenery and the starting point for many wilderness trails. Hetch Hetchy Reservoir is located 40 miles from Yosemite Valley via Highway 120 and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open 7 am through 8 pm through April 30. Hours extend to 7 am to 9 pm as of May 1.

Programs at right printed in **COLOR** are specially designed for **CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES**

## Key to Events and Programs

**NPS** National Park Service  
**DNC** DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite, Inc.  
**AAG** The Ansel Adams Gallery  
**YA** Yosemite Association  
**\$** Programs offered for a fee

Facilities accessible to visitors in wheelchairs.  
 A sign language interpreter may be available for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors. Contact 209/372-4726 (TTY) or 209/ 372-0645 to request an interpreter. Advance notice of 2 weeks is requested.  
 Assistive Listening Devices are available upon advance request.

	Events and Programs			
	YOSEMITE VALLEY		WAWONA / MARIPOSA GROVE	CRANE FLAT / HETCH HETCHY
Sunday	8:00am	<b>Coffee with a Ranger</b> (Starts in May) ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 🗺️	8:00am	1:00pm
	8:30am	<b>Photography Walk</b> 1 ½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)		
	10:00am	<b>Ranger Stroll - Rivers and Waterfalls</b> 1 ½ hrs. Lower Yosemite Fall, shuttle stop #6 (NPS) 🗺️		
	1:30pm	<b>JUNIOR RANGER WALK</b> (Starts in May) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)	10:00am	
	3:00pm	<b>Ranger Stroll - Bears</b> (Starts in May) 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. (NPS)		
	6:45pm	<b>WEE WILD ONES</b> (Starts in May) ¾ hrs. Stories & activities for kids 6 and under. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) 🗺️	11am-3pm	
	7:00pm	<b>Yosemite Theater LIVE: Conversations with a Tramp</b> (May 10, 17 & 24) 1 ½ hrs. Valley Visitor Center Theater (YA) \$ 🗺️		
	8:00pm	<b>LeConte Memorial Lodge</b> 1 hr. Shuttle stop #12 (Sierra Club)	2:00pm	
		(May 3 only) John Muir & Teddy Roosevelt in Yosemite, 1903; (May 24 only) John Muir’s Plant Collecting		
	8:30pm	<b>Ranger Program</b> (Starts in May) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 🗺️		
		<b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) 🗺️		
		<b>Evening Program</b> (May 24 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) 🗺️		
Monday	7:30am	<b>Yosemite Valley Bird Walk</b> 2 ½ hrs. Meet at Valley Visitor Center. (YA) \$	10:00am	
	8:00am	<b>Coffee with a Ranger</b> (Starts in May) ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 🗺️		
	8:30am	<b>Morning Photo Walk</b> 2 hrs. Sign up/meet at The Ahwahnee front desk (DNC) 🗺️		
	10:00am	<b>Ranger Stroll - Yosemite’s First People</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) 🗺️	11am-3pm	
	1:30pm	<b>JUNIOR RANGER WALK</b> (Starts in May) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)		
	3:00pm	<b>Ranger Stroll - Bears</b> (Starts in May) 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. (NPS)		
	7:00pm	<b>Yosemite Theater LIVE: John Muir Among the Animals</b> (Starts in May) 1 ½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater (YA) \$ 🗺️		
	8:30pm	<b>Ranger Program</b> (Starts in May) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 🗺️		
		<b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) 🗺️		
		<b>Evening Program</b> (May 25 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) 🗺️		
Tuesday	8:00am	<b>Coffee with a Ranger</b> (Starts in May) ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 🗺️	5:30pm	
		<b>Photography Walk</b> 1 ½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)		
	10:00am	<b>Ranger Stroll - Trees</b> 1 ½ hrs. The Ahwahnee, shuttle stop # 3 (NPS)		
	12:00pm	<b>Yosemite Forum</b> (May 12 only) 1 hr. Selected lectures by scientists working in the park. East Auditorium (NPS) 🗺️		
	1:30pm	<b>JUNIOR RANGER WALK</b> (Starts in May) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)		
	1:00pm	<b>Using Your Digital Camera Class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) \$		
	3:00pm	<b>Ranger Stroll - Bears</b> (Starts in May) 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS)		
	5:30pm	<b>Spring Twilight Stroll</b> 1 hr. The Ahwahnee patio (DNC) 🗺️		
	7:00pm	<b>Yosemite Theater LIVE: Spirit of John Muir</b> (Starts in May) 1 ½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater (YA) \$ 🗺️		
	8:30pm	<b>Ranger Program</b> (Starts in May) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 🗺️		
		<b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) 🗺️		
		<b>Evening Program</b> (May 26 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) 🗺️		
Wednesday	8:00am	<b>Coffee with a Ranger</b> (Starts in May) ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 🗺️	5:30pm	
	9:00am	<b>Stewardship Project</b> (April 22) 2 hrs. An Earth Day work party. Valley Visitor Center. Closed-toe shoes required (NPS/DNC)		
	10:00am	<b>Ranger Stroll - Geology</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS)		
		<b>Art Class</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center, Yosemite Village (YA)		
	1:00pm	<b>Open House</b> (April 29 only) 3 hrs. Come learn about park improvement efforts. Valley Visitor Center Auditorium (NPS) 🗺️		
	1:30pm	<b>JUNIOR RANGER WALK</b> (Starts in May) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)		
	2:00pm	<b>PEDAL, PLAY, AND PROTECT BIKE RIDE</b> (April 22) 3 hrs. Educational bike ride on Earth Day. Tickets, info at tour desks (DNC) \$	8:30pm	
		<b>Fine Print Viewing</b> 1 hr. Very limited space. Sign up in advance at the Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG)		
	3:00pm	<b>Ranger Stroll - Bears</b> (Starts in May) 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater. (NPS)		
	6:45pm	<b>WEE WILD ONES</b> (Except April 22) ¾ hrs. Stories and activities for kids 6 and under. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) 🗺️		
	7:00pm	<b>EarthDance Film Festival</b> (April 22 only) 2 hrs. Short environ. films for Earth Day. Visitor Center Theater (DNC/NPS/YA)		
		<b>Yosemite Theater LIVE: John Muir is Back and... Ticked Off!</b> (Starts in May) 1 ½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater (YA) \$ 🗺️		
	8:30pm	<b>Ranger Program</b> (Starts in May) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 🗺️		
		<b>Evening Program</b> (Except April 22) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) 🗺️		
Thursday	8:00am	<b>Coffee with a Ranger</b> (Starts in May) ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 🗺️	5:30pm	
	8:30am	<b>Photography Walk</b> 1 ½ hrs. Limited space. Reservations required. Sign up & meet at Ansel Adams Gallery (conditions permitting) (AAG)		
	10:00am	<b>Ranger Stroll - Yosemite’s Legacy</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) 🗺️		
		<b>Art Class</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center, Yosemite Village (YA)		
	1:00pm	<b>In the Footsteps of Ansel Adams: Seeing Artistically with Your Camera</b> 4 hrs. Limited space. Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) \$		
	1:30pm	<b>JUNIOR RANGER WALK</b> (Starts in May) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)		
		<b>LeConte Memorial Lodge</b> ½ hr. Shuttle stop #12 (Sierra Club)		
		(May 14 only) <b>GRANDMOTHER’S STORIES, MIWOK BRUSHES, MUSICAL NUMBERS &amp; PUPPETS</b>		
	3:00pm	<b>Ranger Stroll - Bears</b> (Starts in May) 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS)		
	5:30pm	<b>Spring Twilight Stroll</b> 1 hr. The Ahwahnee patio (DNC) 🗺️		
	8:30pm	<b>Ranger Program</b> (Starts in May) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 🗺️		
		<b>Evening Program</b> 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) 🗺️		
Friday	8:00am	<b>Coffee with a Ranger</b> (Starts in May) ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 🗺️	2:00pm	
	10:00am	<b>Ranger Stroll - Wild About Wildlife</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Valley Visitor Center (NPS) 🗺️		
		<b>Art Class</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center, Yosemite Village (YA)	5:30pm	
	1:30pm	<b>JUNIOR RANGER WALK</b> (Starts in May) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)		
	3:00pm	<b>Ranger Stroll - Bears</b> (Starts in May) 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS)		
	7:00pm	<b>EARTH DAY FAMILY NIGHT</b> (April 17 only) 1 ½ hrs. Launch Earth Day with song and entertainment. Yosemite Lodge 🗺️		
		<b>Yosemite Theater LIVE: Return to Balance (Climbing film)</b> (Except April 17 & 24) 1 ½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater (YA) \$ 🗺️		
	8:00pm	<b>LeConte Memorial Lodge</b> 1 hr. Shuttle stop #12 (Sierra Club)		
		(May 1 only) <b>AMERICAN INDIAN STORYTELLING &amp; FLUTE</b> ; (May 8 only) Meet Galen Clark: Guardian of Yosemite		
		(May 15 only) <b>ALONG THE JOHN MUIR TRAIL</b> ; (May 22 only) Underground Botany: Surprising Connections		
	8:30pm	<b>Ranger Program</b> (Starts in May) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 🗺️		
		<b>NIGHT PROWL</b> (Starts in May) 1 ½ hrs. Explore Yosemite at night. Tickets/info at any tour desk (DNC) \$ 🗺️		
		<b>Film: Ansel Adams</b> (Except April 17) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (AAG) 🗺️		
Saturday	8:00am	<b>Coffee with a Ranger</b> (Starts in May) ½ hr. Bring a mug. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 🗺️	8:00am	
	9:00am	<b>Bike to Hike Tour</b> 2 ½ hrs. Curry Village bike stand. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS) \$		
	10:00am	<b>NATIONAL JR. RANGER DAY ACTIVITIES</b> (April 25 only) 4 hrs. Nature Center at Happy Isles, shuttle stop #16. More info: p. 5. <b>Celebrate Earth Day</b> (April 18 only) All day. Walks, talks, and activities. See Valley Visitor Center or tour desks for schedule.	10:00am	
		<b>Ranger Stroll - Ahwahneechee Stories and Games</b> 1 ½ hrs. Front of Yosemite Museum (NPS) 🗺️		
		<b>Art Class</b> 4 hrs. Yosemite Art and Education Center, Yosemite Village (YA)	11am-3pm	
	1:00pm	<b>Discovery Hike - Vernal Falls Bridge</b> 3 ½ hrs. Curry Village Mountaineering School. Tickets/info at any tour desk (YMS)		
		<b>Using Your Digital Camera Class</b> 4 hrs. Sign up and meet at the Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG) \$		
	1:30pm	<b>JUNIOR RANGER WALK</b> (Starts in May) 1 hr. Nature Center at Happy Isles, near shuttle stop #16 (NPS)		
	3:00pm	<b>Ranger Stroll - Bears</b> (Starts in May) 1 ½ hrs. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS)		
		<b>Fine Print Viewing</b> 1 hr. Very limited space. Sign up in advance at the Ansel Adams Gallery (AAG)		
	4:30pm	<b>Poetry and Parks: A Walk and Reading</b> (April 18 only) 1 ½ hrs. Meet on the lawn behind The Ahwahnee. (NPS)	2:00pm	
	5:30pm	<b>Spring Twilight Stroll</b> (Except April 18) 1 hr. The Ahwahnee patio. (DNC) 🗺️		
	7:00pm	<b>Yosemite Theater LIVE: Return to Balance (Climbing film)</b> (Except April 18) 1 ½ hrs. Visitor Center Theater (YA) \$ 🗺️		
	8:00pm	<b>LeConte Memorial Lodge</b> 1 hr. Shuttle stop #12 (Sierra Club)	5:30pm	
		(May 2 only) <b>BEARS IN YOSEMITE: MYTHS, REALITY &amp; MYTHOLOGY</b> ; (May 9 only) John Muir’s Plant Collecting;		
		(May 16 only) <b>ACROSS THE RANGE: HIKE FROM SEQUOIA TO MT. WHITNEY</b> ; (May 23 only) <b>OPEN HOUSE</b>		
	8:30pm	<b>The Spirit of John Muir</b> (April 18 only) 1 hr. Earth Day weekend with Muir. Free. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) 🗺️		
		<b>Ranger Program</b> (Starts in May) 1 hr. Lower Pines Campground Amphitheater (NPS) 🗺️		
		<b>Evening Program</b> (Except April 18) 1 hr. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater (DNC) 🗺️		
		<b>INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY PROGRAM</b> (May 2 only) 1 ½ hrs. Tickets/info at any tour desk (DNC) \$ 🗺️		
		<b>Evening Program</b> (May 23 only) 1 hr. Curry Village Amphitheater (DNC) 🗺️		



# Exploring Yosemite

Spectacular vistas and quiet corners of the park



## Self-Guiding Trails

### A Changing Yosemite

This one-mile-long walk through Cook's Meadow explores both natural and cultural stories of Yosemite. Brochure available at the Valley Visitor Center.

### Mirror Lake

Mirror Lake interpretive trail is closed past Mirror Lake due to rockfall. You can hike to Mirror Lake, however. To reach the start of the trail, walk one mile from shuttle stop #17 to the disabled parking spaces near the lake.

### Indian Village

This short loop winds through the Indian Village of Ahwahnee, a reconstructed Miwok-Paiute village. A booklet is available at the trailhead and in the Visitor Center. The trail begins behind the Yosemite Museum.

### Curry Village

The *Legacy of Curry Village* is an easy stroll commemorating the early days of Camp Curry. Pick up a map and guide at the Curry Village front desk or tour desk.

## The Incomparable Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park embraces one of the world's most outstanding concentrations of spectacular mountain-and-valley scenery. Its Sierran setting harbors a grand collection of high waterfalls and forests, including three groves of giant sequoias.

## Yosemite Valley

An unlimited array of possibilities await you in Yosemite Valley. Most involve sightseeing and learning about the scenery before you. See pages 3, 6, and 7 for more information on program topics and visitor services available.

The base of **Lower Yosemite Fall** is usually an easy walk from shuttle stop #6. Bicycle trails offer an alternate way to access the trailhead. The hike features educational exhibits and a picnic area, and is accessible to the mobility impaired when the path is clear. More adventurous hikers can spend several hours switchbacking to an area near the top of Upper Yosemite Fall.

**Bridalveil Fall** is another waterfall that you can visit by car on your way into or out of the Valley.

**El Capitan**, a massive granite monolith, stands 3,593 feet from base to summit at the west end of the Valley.

**Half Dome**, Yosemite's most distinctive monument, dominates most views in

Yosemite Valley. Forces of uplift, erosion from rivers and glaciers, and rockfall all shaped this famous feature into what we see today. Cook's Meadow, Sentinel Bridge, Tunnel View, Glacier Point, and Olmsted Point are just a few locations with stunning views of Half Dome.

**Happy Isles** is a place to see dramatic natural processes at work. It is easily reached by shuttle at stop #16. Cross the footbridges onto the Isles or wander through outdoor exhibits detailing Yosemite's geologic story. You can park at Curry Village and walk too. It takes about 15 minutes to get there.

For a strenuous day hike, you can use this trailhead to reach Vernal Fall footbridge ( $\frac{3}{4}$  miles) and Nevada Fall (2.7 miles) via the Mist Trail. This portion of the trail is closed when ice or high water makes the route hazardous. Please observe warning signs along the trail, and always pack your trash out.

**Tunnel View**, along Wawona Road (Hwy 41) provides a classic view of Yosemite Valley, El Capitan, Half Dome,

Sentinel Rock, Cathedral Rocks, and Bridalveil Fall. It is spectacular at sunset or after the clearing of a storm.

**A Valley sightseeing tour is offered** in Yosemite throughout the year. The Valley Floor Tour is a 26-mile, two-hour tour that departs several times daily from Yosemite Lodge. Tours travel by enclosed motorcoach. An experienced guide narrates the tour. Only very poor weather cancels it. An open-top tram is used during warmer weather.

You can experience **the Valley by bike** by bringing your own, or by renting at Curry Village or Yosemite Lodge. Rental offices are open 10 am to 4 pm; closed 1:30 to 2 pm for lunch.

A variety of other **bus and open-top tram tours** are offered each week.

Call 209/372-1240 for reservations or inquire at the tour and transportation or info desks at Yosemite Lodge, Yosemite Village, Curry Village, and The Ahwahnee.



Top: Valley Visitor Center mall at Yosemite Village.

Above: Mariposa Grove Big Tree.  
NPS Photos by Erik Skindrud



## Wawona

Located six miles from the park’s South Entrance or a one-hour drive from the Valley, the Wawona area tells the story of Yosemite’s human history and pioneer past. The charming 19th-century Wawona Hotel and the Pioneer Yosemite History Center are a history buff’s delight. The center is a collection of historic buildings associated with the people and events that shaped the national park idea in Yosemite. Interpretive signs and a brochure provide a self-guiding tour. Also in Wawona, you will find hikes of varying difficulty to places like Wawona Meadow and Chilnualna Falls, one of the tallest outside Yosemite Valley.

**Mariposa Grove** of Giant Sequoias is Yosemite’s largest stand of giant sequoias (about 500 trees). When it opens, you can park near the grove and walk in or take an open-air tram tour.

## Hetch Hetchy

Hetch Hetchy Valley is accessible via the Big Oak Flat Road and Evergreen and Hetch Hetchy Roads; it is 40 miles from Yosemite Valley. The Hetch Hetchy Road is open 7 am to 8 pm through April 30. The road is open until 9 pm starting May1. Call 209/372-0200 for the most up-to-date information. Vehicles over 25 ft. are prohibited on the narrow Hetch Hetchy Road. Once considered a twin to Yosemite Valley, this valley was described by John Muir as “a grand landscape garden.” Hetch Hetchy is located along the Tuolumne River in the northern part of the park and now contains a large reservoir. Hetch Hetchy’s relatively low elevation gives the area one of the longest hiking seasons in Yosemite National Park.

## Glacier Point

The Glacier Point Road is anticipated to open for visitor traffic by May. (You can get the latest road-closure info at the Valley Visitor Center.) At Glacier Point, you can go to the railing’s edge and catch your breath at an exhilarating view, looking down 3,214 feet to the Valley floor.

## Tuolumne Meadows

Tioga Road, which links east and west segments of California Hwy 120, will likely open in May. Although Tuolumne Meadows is only a 1.5 hour drive (55 miles) from Yosemite Valley, it is a world apart. Moving through elevations 6,200 to almost 10,000 feet at Tioga Pass, the road gives access to high country hiking and climbing. As the snow melts, hiking options increase. Campgrounds are expected to open in June. Wilderness permits will be available at the Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center once the road opens.



### April 25: National Junior Ranger Day

Join rangers and DNC staff for guided and drop-in activities. Meet at the Nature Center at Happy Isles. Adult accompaniment REQUIRED for all events.

10:00am **Learn and Serve** 2 hrs. Ranger walk and restoration project. Designed for ages 7-13.  
**Wee Wild Ones** 1 hr. Recommended for ages 6 and under.  
12:00pm **Exploration Fair** 4 hrs. Drop-in activities.  
1:00pm **Search and Rescue Demonstration** See search and rescue techniques.  
2:00pm **Learn and Serve** 2 hrs. Recommended for ages 7-13.  
**Wee Wild Ones** 1 hr. Recommended for ages 6 and under.  
**Vernal Fall Hike** 2 hrs. Ranger-led hike for ages 14 and up, accompanied by adult.

### Wawona: Pines & Golf at 4,000 ft.

The fairways at Wawona make up the only golf course in a U.S. national park. The 9-hole course is open from 9 am to 5 pm daily, conditions permitting. Wawona greens are the first in California to be maintained by wholly organic means (no synthetic pesticides or fertilizer). Join managers for a Golf Course Talk from 10 am to 2 pm on Sunday, April 19 to learn more.



### Earth Day Events April 17-22

Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22. But the park celebration will spread across the week.

#### Earth Day Family Night

7pm on Friday, April 17. Launch Earth Day festivities with song, dance, and entertainment. Yosemite Lodge Amphitheater.

#### Village Mall Celebration

10:30am-2pm on Saturday, April 18. Daylong displays and activities at the Village Mall, in front of the Valley Visitor Center.

#### Golf Course Talk

10am on Sunday, April 19. See box at left.

#### Pedal, Play, and Protect

2pm on Wednesday, April 22. Tickets for educational bike ride can be purchased at tour desks.

#### EarthDance Film Festival

7pm on Wednesday, April 22. Short environmental films. Free. Visitor Center Theater.

#### Every Day is Earth Day

8pm on Wednesday, April 22. Tom Bopp explores the park roles of John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt. Wawona Hotel.

Top: Climbing up the John Muir Trail.  
Photo by Christine White Loberg

Bottom: Golf course and hotel at Wawona.  
Photo: DNC Parks & Resorts, Inc.



# Yosemite Valley

Dates, times, and places



## Throughout Yosemite National Park

Spring is a time of dramatic growth and motion and offers special opportunities for adventure and photography. **Note that some tours and roads familiar to summer visitors do not reopen until May or June.**

## Yosemite Valley

### Valley Visitor Center and Bookstore

Visitor center and bookstore hours are 9 am to 5 pm through May 3. Starting on Monday, May 4, hours extend to 9 am to 7:30 pm. The center is just west of the main post office (shuttle stops #5 and #9). The facility offers information, maps, and books, in the attached bookstore.

Explore the exhibit hall and learn how Yosemite’s spectacular landscape formed and how people interact with it.

**FILM: SPIRIT OF YOSEMITE**

This inspiring visitor-orientation film provides a stunning overview of Yosemite’s splendor. It is shown every 30 minutes, Monday through Saturday between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm, and Sunday between noon to 4:30 pm (daily to 5:30 pm starting May 4) in the Valley Visitor Center Theater.

### Internet Access

Fee-based terminals are open at Degnan’s Deli. Free internet access is available at the Mariposa County library, south of the Yosemite Cemetery. Hours vary. Ask at the Valley Visitor Center.

### Yurt Info Station

Starting May 1, Yosemite Association volunteers will staff an information station at Visitor Parking (see map on back of this Guide). Yurt Information Station hours are 10 am to 4 pm daily.

### Yosemite Museum

Located in Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center.

**INDIAN CULTURAL EXHIBIT**

Open 9 am to 5 pm. Interprets the cultural history of Yosemite’s Miwok and Paiute people from 1850 to the present.

**YOSEMITE RENAISSANCE ART SHOW**

Yosemite Renaissance is a free art show at the Yosemite Museum Gallery. The art exhibit ends May 3.



“Toward Tioga Lake.”  
Artwork by Jane Culp

**YOSEMITE MUSEUM STORE**

Open daily from 9 am to 5 pm. The store offers books and traditional American Indian arts and crafts.

### Nature Center at Happy Isles

Open 9:30 am to 5 pm starting April 25. Designed for nature-exploring families, the center offers natural-history exhibits and a bookstore (see below). The center is a short walk from shuttle stop # 16.

**OTHER VALLEY BOOKSTORES**

The Yosemite Association operates bookstores at Happy Isles Nature Center and the Yosemite Art & Education Center (opens May 13, see “Free Art Classes” below).

### Free Art Classes

The Yosemite Art & Education Center offers free art classes. Please register in advance at the center, located south of the Village Store. For times, see page 3.

**May 13-16**    Fealing Lin: Watercolor, Fresh & Loose  
**May 20-23**    Pam Pederson: Travel Sketching in Pen / Watercolor

### Wilderness Center

The Valley Wilderness Center is located in Yosemite Village and opens May 1. Hours are 8 am to 4:30 pm. Wilderness permits, info, and bear canister rentals are available. Phone: 209/372-0745.

### Ansel Adams Gallery

In Yosemite Village next to the Valley Visitor Center, the gallery is open daily from 9 am to 5 pm through May 9. After May 9 it’s open from 9 am to 6 pm. The gallery offers the work of Ansel Adams, other photographers and artists, camera walks, workshops, and classes. Activities are listed on the front porch. Call 209/372-4413, or visit [www.anseladams.com](http://www.anseladams.com)

**At the Gallery in May**

Art Wolfe, color images from around the world. A reception for the artist and booksigning will be held from 4 to 6 pm on Monday, May 11.

**Opening May 15**

Charles Cramer, recent color photographs from Yosemite and beyond. A reception for the artist starts at 3:30 pm on Friday, May 15.

Top right: Rangers with visitors. *NPS photo by Erik Skindrud*

Top center: Pine flower. *Photo by Bethany Gediman*

Top left: Ranger-led program on Valley trees. *Photo by Ray Santos*

**POST OFFICE**

Yosemite Village  
**Main Office**  
Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm  
Saturday: 10am to noon  
Yosemite Lodge  
**Post Office**  
Monday-Friday: 12:30pm to 2:45pm  
El Portal  
**Post Office**  
Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 5pm  
*closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1:30*  
Wawona Post Office  
Monday-Friday: 9am to 5pm  
Saturday: 9am to noon

**BOOKS, GIFTS, & APPAREL**

Yosemite Village  
**The Ansel Adams Gallery**  
9am to 5pm (to 6pm as of May 9)  
**Yosemite Art & Education Center**  
9:30am to 12 pm and 1 to 4pm,  
Wed. through Sun. (As of May 13)  
**Yosemite Bookstore**  
**Inside Yosemite Visitor Center**  
9am to 5pm  
9am to 7:30pm (Starting May 4)  
**Yosemite Museum Store**  
9am to 5pm (May close for lunch)  
**Village Store**  
8am to 9pm  
**Habitat Yosemite**  
11am to 5pm  
**Sport Shop**  
10am to 5pm  
The Ahwahnee  
**The Ahwahnee Gift Shop**  
8am to 9pm  
**The Ahwahnee Sweet Shop**  
7am to 10pm  
Yosemite Lodge  
**Gift/Grocery**  
8am to 9pm  
8am to 10pm (Starting May 22)  
**Nature Shop**  
10am to 7pm  
10am to 8pm (Starting May 22)  
Curry Village  
**Mountain Shop**  
8am to 6pm  
8am to 8pm (Starting May 22)  
**Curry Village Gift/Grocery**  
8am to 8pm  
8am to 10pm (Starting May 22)  
Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop  
8am to 6pm  
8am to 7pm (Starting May 1)  
8am to 8pm (Starting May 22)



Hours listed are core hours for facilities and may be extended during periods of peak visitation. Check local postings for changes to hours of operation.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Yosemite Village  
**Degnan’s Delicatessen**  
7am to 5pm daily  
**Degnan’s Loft**  
5pm to 9pm daily  
**Village Grill**  
11am to 5pm daily  
The Ahwahnee  
**Dining Room**  
Breakfast: 7am to 10:30am  
Lunch: 11:30am to 3pm  
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm  
Sunday Brunch: 7am to 3pm  
Appropriate attire requested for dinner. Reservations recommended for dinner and Sunday Brunch. Required for Mother’s Day brunch.  
209/372-1489.  
**The Ahwahnee Bar** 11am to 11pm  
Yosemite Lodge  
**Food Court**  
Breakfast: 6:30am to 11am  
Lunch: 11:30am to 2pm  
Dinner: 5pm-8:00pm  
**Mountain Room Lounge**  
4:30pm - 11pm (Mon.-Fri.)  
Noon - 11pm (Sat.-Sun.)  
**Mountain Room Restaurant**  
5pm to 9pm (Fri.-Sat.)  
5pm to 8:30pm (Sun.-Thurs.)  
Curry Village  
**Pizza Deck**  
Noon-9pm (Daily through May 14)  
Noon-10pm (Daily starting May 15)  
**Coffee Corner**  
7am to 11am (Daily through May 15)  
6am to 10pm (Daily starting May 16)  
**Taqueria**  
11am to 5pm (Daily starting May 9)  
**Happy Isles Snack Stand**  
11am to 5pm (Daily through May 21)  
11am to 7pm (Daily starting May 22)  
Wawona  
**Wawona Hotel Dining Room**  
Breakfast: 7:30am to 10am  
Lunch: 11:30am to 1:30pm  
Dinner: 5:30pm to 9pm  
Easter & Mother’s Day Sunday Brunch, April 12 and May 10 only: 10:30am to 1:30pm  
Brunch reservations recommended.  
*Daily reservations taken for 6 or more.*  
209/375-1425

GROCERIES

Yosemite Lodge  
**Gift/Grocery**  
8am to 9pm  
8am to 10pm (Starting May 22)  
Yosemite Village  
**Village Store**  
8am to 9pm  
**Degnan’s Delicatessen**  
7am to 5pm  
Curry Village  
**Gift/Grocery**  
8am to 8pm;  
8am to 10pm (starting May 22)  
Wawona Store & Pioneer Gift Shop  
8am to 6pm  
8am to 7pm (starting May 1)  
8am to 8pm (starting May 22)  
Crane Flat Store  
9am to 6pm  
8am to 8pm (starting May 22)

GAS STATION

Gas outside Yosemite Valley  
**El Portal**  
9am to noon, 1pm to 5pm  
Diesel available. Pay at the pump 24 hours with credit or debit card  
Wawona Gas Station  
9am to 6pm (Propane when open)  
Pay at the pump 24 hours  
Crane Flat  
9am to 6pm  
Pay at the pump 24 hours

SHOWERS AND LAUNDRY

Curry Village  
**Showers**  
Open 24 hours  
Housekeeping Camp  
**Laundromat**  
8am to 10pm

Visitor Services

Locations and hours across the park

Wawona

Pioneer Yosemite History Center

Go back to a time of horse-drawn wagons, a covered bridge, and log cabins. A visit to the Pioneer Yosemite History Center explains how Yosemite inspired national parks across America and around the world. The center is open throughout the year.

Evening Programs

Join pianist/singer Tom Bopp in the Wawona Hotel lobby from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Tuesday through Saturday, as he performs songs and tells stories from Yosemite’s past.

Wawona Visitor Center at Hill’s Studio



Come visit the newly renovated lobby and exhibit hall, featuring full-scale reproductions of Thomas Hill’s paintings. The exhibit hall tells the story of Hill, landscape painting, and park preservation.

Open 8:30 am to 5 pm beginning May 8. Offers wilderness permits, trail information, books, and an exhibit on Thomas Hill. Located on the grounds of the Wawona Hotel. Walk from the hotel or park at the Wawona Store and follow the path up the hill. More info: 209/375-9531.

Mariposa Grove

Located near Yosemite’s South Entrance, the Mariposa Grove is the park’s largest stand of giant sequoias, with about 500 trees. The road to the Grove is expected open by May.

Getting to Mariposa Grove

Allow an hour’s driving time to reach the grove’s access road from the Valley.  
**Dogs or bikes are not permitted anywhere in the Grove.**

Crane Flat & Hetch Hetchy

**Big Oak Flat and North Entrance**  
The route enters the park on California Hwy 120. Yosemite’s north region is often uncrowded, and offers lesser-known gems including the giant sequoia groves near Crane Flat, and the trails and waterfalls of Hetch Hetchy. The Big Oak Flat information station is closed until May, but wilderness permits are available at a self-service, 24-hour kiosk.

Merced Grove

Yosemite’s quietest stand of sequoias is the Merced Grove, a group of about 20 trees. It’s a four-mile round-trip hike from Big Oak Flat Road.

Tuolumne Grove

This cluster of about 25 sequoias is near Crane Flat. The path drops 500 feet (150 meters) in one mile. The trip is moderately strenuous.

Tuolumne Meadows

**Tuolumne Meadows Visitor Center**  
*Opening date pending.*  
When open, hours are 9 am to 5 pm.

**Parsons Memorial Lodge, McCauley Cabin, and Soda Springs**  
Two trails, both flat and 3/4 mi. long, lead to this historic area.

**Tuolumne Meadows Wilderness Center**  
The center is scheduled to open along with Tioga Road. Hours are 8 am to 4 pm, with a daily closure for lunch. This info and wilderness permit-dispensing office is located off Tioga Road, near the turnoff to Tuolomne Lodge.

Outdoor Adventures

**Yosemite Association Seminars**  
For more details and information on Yosemite Association’s seminars, pick up a catalog at any visitor center, call 209/379-2321, or visit [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org).

- May 2** To the Base of Ribbon Fall with Suzanne Swedo.
- May 8** Photographing the Yosemite Falls Moonbow with John Senser.
- May 9** Yosemite Waterfalls Grand Tour with Suzanne Swedo.

**YA Custom Adventures**  
The Yosemite Association also offers individualized Custom Adventures for groups and families. Led by naturalists, the option lets you focus on your own area of interest.  
Info: 209/379-2321, ext. 12.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

YOSEMITE COMMUNITY CHURCH (NONDENOMINATIONAL)  
WEEKLY WORSHIP / YOSEMITE VALLEY CHAPEL  
Sunday 9:15am, 6:30pm; 11am as of May 24  
Thurs.: 7:00pm; Tuesday Bible Studies  
Marriage Renewal Sunday: May 3  
Call 209/372-4831 for information  
  
ROMAN CATHOLIC  
Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Theater  
Sunday Mass: 10:00am  
  
CHURCH OF CHRIST (NONDENOMINATIONAL)  
El Portal Chapel / Worship: Sunday 11am  
Foresta Road, at top of Chapel Lane  
Info: 209/379-2100  
  
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST  
Saturdays (Starts May 23)  
Lower River Amphitheater  
9:45am - Music / Sabbath School  
11am - Worship / 12:30pm Potluck  
Info: 209/586-4325

GENERAL SERVICES

Village Garage  
  
NO GAS AVAILABLE IN YOSEMITE VALLEY  
8am to 5pm  
Towing 24 hours. Propane available until 4pm. 209/372-8320  
  
Dental Services  
Adjacent to Yosemite Medical Clinic.  
For hours, call 209/372-4200.  
If no answer, call 209/372-4637  
  
Yosemite Medical Clinic  
Emergency care: 24 hours daily.  
Drop-in and urgent care: 8am to 7pm.  
Appointments: 8am to 5pm Mon. through Fri. Located on Ahwahnee Drive in Yosemite Valley, the clinic provides routine and emergency medical care, 24-hour paramedic/ ambulance services, limited pharmacy, lab, x-ray, physical therapy, and Mountain Crisis Services for victims of domestic violence.  
209/372-4637

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS  
7:30pm Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday  
DNC General Office Building (Employee Training Center)  
Yosemite Village  
  
AL-ANON  
No Al-Anon meetings are currently taking place. However, if you need to speak with someone, feel free to call Shari B. at 209/372-4812.  
  
LIONS CLUB  
Meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at noon, The Ahwahnee.  
Call 209/372-4475.  
  
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL  
Meets Thursdays for lunch at noon in The Ahwahnee Mural Room. Visiting Rotarian families and guests welcome. For meeting reservations or information, call 209/372-8459.



# Protecting Yourself

Experience Yosemite—safely



## Keep yourself safe while exploring your park.

There are many ways to experience the wildness of Yosemite. While the forces of nature can create unexpected hazardous conditions, with a little common sense and some pre-planning, you can minimize the risks associated with many activities.

### Traffic Safety

Roads leading to the park are two-lane, narrow, and winding. When traveling on park roads you can protect yourself, other visitors, and park wildlife by observing the following simple rules: Please obey posted speed limits. Yosemite’s roads are used by both visitors and park wildlife. Use turnouts to pull completely out of the road, to take photos, consult the park map, or simply enjoy the park’s scenery and wildlife.

### Pack Water

Hydration is life. Avoid dehydration and heat exhaustion by carrying plenty of water. Filters or other treatment methods are essential. (See “Water Quality” at right.)

### Effects of Altitude

Altitude sickness may develop in otherwise healthy and fit people who are exposed to rapid increases in altitude. It can develop at altitudes as low as 8,000 feet (Yosemite Valley’s elevation is 4,000 feet). The risk of occurrence increases with age and with diseases of the heart and lungs.

Symptoms include headache, nausea, insomnia, irritability, shortness of breath, general malaise and fatigue. The best way to avoid it is to slowly acclimatize yourself to higher elevations, over the span of two to three days by gradually gaining elevation until you reach 10,000 feet (Tioga Pass). Avoid alcohol, sugar, and high-fat meals. Should altitude sickness develop, descend to a lower elevation. The Yosemite Medical Clinic in Yosemite Valley is experienced in diagnosing and treating this sickness.

### Hiking, Backpacking, Rock Climbing and Scrambling

- Be honest about your abilities and plan with the least experienced member of your group in mind. Tell someone where you are going and when you are due back. Carry a signal mirror and whistle. Solo activities require increased precautions.
- Stay on designated trails and routes. Carry and know how to use a map and compass.
- Avoid scrambling in steep terrain or off-trail. If new to climbing, take a class to learn critical safety and protection techniques. Never climb alone.
- Check weather forecasts. Storms can occur with little warning. Snow is possible year-round at higher elevations, and can make route finding difficult. Temperature shifts are common.
- Avoid dehydration or heat exhaustion; carry and drink plenty of water, and bring high-energy food.



The view from Glacier Point. Photo by Bethany Gediman

- Be prepared to set up emergency shelter even when out just for the day.
- Don’t depend on cell phone or GPS reception for your safety.

### Water Safety

- Stay away from swiftly-moving water. Keep children from wandering on or near these hazards.
- Never swim or wade upstream from the brink of a waterfall, even if the water appears shallow and calm. Each year, unsuspecting visitors are swept over waterfalls to their deaths when swimming in these areas.

### Water Quality

- Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier.
- To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where available, and always wash hands afterwards

with soap and water. In natural areas, wash, camp, and bury human waste (6 inches deep) at least 100 feet from water or trail.

### Protect Yosemite’s Wilderness

- Free wilderness permits are required for all wilderness trips.
- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Pack out all trash and toilet paper/sanitary products.
- Use gas stoves, not wood fires.
- Camp in an existing campsite at least 100 feet from water and trail. You must camp four trail miles from any populated area and one mile from any road.
- To minimize trampling of vegetation, bring a container to carry water to your camp from lakes or streams.
- Maximum group is 15 people for on-trail and eight for off-trail travel.

### Wilderness Permits

Free permits are required for overnight trips. Permits are issued at Yosemite Valley, Big Oak Flat, Wawona, Tuolumne Meadows, and the Hetch Hetchy Entrance Station (opening times vary). You can reserve permits, but they must be picked up in person. Check the park’s website for trailhead availability and call 209/372-0740 to reserve a permit.

### More Information

[www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/backpacking.htm)  
Leave No Trace [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org)  
Friends of Yosemite Search and Rescue [www.friendofyosar.org](http://www.friendofyosar.org)

Top left: Taft Point overlook. Photo by Wendy Malone

Top right: Theresa Ho on belay. Photo by Kenny Karst



# Protecting Your Park

Enjoy park places, plants, and wildlife safely and responsibly



Sow and cub. Photo by Christine White Loberg

## Fishing

Trout season in Yosemite opens the last Saturday in April. A valid California sport-fishing license is required for anglers age 16 years and older. When fishing, the license must be plainly visible by attaching it to an outer layer of clothing above the waistline.

- Trout season opens on the last Saturday in April and continues through November 15 (except Frog Creek near Lake Eleanor, which opens June 15).
- Special fishing regulations apply on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley from Happy Isles downstream to the Foresta Bridge in El Portal. Within these reaches of the river, it is catch-and-release only for rainbow trout. Brown trout limits are five fish per day. Only artificial lures or flies with barbless hooks may be used.
- The use of live or dead minnows, bait fish or amphibians, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is prohibited.

## Water Quality

To protect yourself from disease, treat any surface water before drinking.

- Treatment methods include boiling for five minutes, use of a Giardia-rated water filter, or iodine-based purifier.
- To prevent the spread of Giardia and other water-borne disease organisms, use restroom facilities where

available, and always wash hands afterwards with soap and water. In natural areas where facilities are not available, wash, camp, and bury human waste (6 inches deep) at least 100 feet away from any water source or trail.

## Pets

Some visitors choose to bring pets along on their vacations. Keep in mind, in Yosemite, pet owners have a few rules to follow:

- Pets are only allowed in developed areas and on roads and paved bike paths. They are not allowed on other trails, or in wilderness areas.
- Pets must be on a leash (6 feet or less) or otherwise physically restrained.
- For the courtesy of others, human companions are responsible for cleaning up and depositing pet feces in trash receptacles.
- Pets are not allowed in any lodging facilities or other buildings within the park and are not allowed in some campgrounds.
- Pets may not be left unattended.

## Bicycling

Each season, plants are crushed from bicycle travel in meadows, campgrounds, and picnic areas. Please respect park resources and keep bicycles on paved roads and paved bicycle trails. They are not allowed to travel off-trail or on dirt paths or trails.

Avoid hiking alone. Watch children closely and never let them run ahead or lag behind on the trail. Teach children what to do if they see a lion.

Never approach a lion, especially if it is with kittens. Most lions will avoid confrontation. Always give them a way to escape. Don't run. Hold your ground, or back away slowly.

## Permits and Other Rules

To find out more about Yosemite National Park regulations visit [www.nps.gov/yose/plan\\_your\\_visit/your\\_safety.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/plan_your_visit/your_safety.htm) and find a copy of the Superintendent's Compendium. This document is a compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements, and other restrictions made by the superintendent, in addition to what is contained in applicable federal statutes and regulations.

## Reporting Violations

During your visit to Yosemite be aware that there are people who either unknowingly or intentionally harm park resources. Please contact a park official if you see the following illegal acts:

- Actively feeding or harassing wildlife
- Collecting plants, reptiles, or insects
- Hunting or directly harming animals
- Picking up archeological items such as arrowheads
- Using metal detectors to locate and collect historic objects
- Driving vehicles into meadows
- Camping outside of campgrounds
- Possession of weapons

If you see activities that could harm people or park resources, jot down any descriptions or a vehicle license plate number and call the park dispatch office at 209/379-1992.

Face the lion and stand upright. Raise your arms. If you have small children with you, pick them up.

If the lion behaves aggressively, wave your arms, shout, and throw objects at it. The goal is to convince it that you may be dangerous. If attacked, fight back!

Report lion encounters at 209/372-0322.

## Keeping Bears Wild

**Three Top Ways to Keep Yosemite's Black Bears Wild and Alive. Remember that Yosemite Bears are Active All Winter Long:**

### 1. Store Your Food Properly.

"Food" includes any item with a scent, regardless of packaging. This may include items that you do not consider food, such as canned goods, bottles, drinks, soap, cosmetics, toiletries, trash, ice chests (even when empty), and unwashed items used for preparing or eating meals. Do not store food in your car after dark: use a food locker. Remember to clear your car of food wrappers, baby wipes, and crumbs in baby seats. If you are staying in a campsite or tent cabin, you must store all your food in food lockers. A food locker is available at each campsite and tent cabin. Food may be stored out of sight in hard-sided RVs with windows closed. Do not leave food unattended at picnic areas and along trails. When backpacking in the wilderness, bear resistant food containers are required.

### 2. If you see a bear, scare it away or keep your distance.

You may not see a bear during your visit because they naturally avoid people. However, if you see one in a developed area (like a campground or parking lot), act immediately to scare it away: Make noise and yell as loud as possible. If there is more than one person, stand together to present a more intimidating figure, but do not surround the bear. If you see a bear anywhere else, consider yourself lucky—but keep your distance (at least 50 yards, or about the distance made by four shuttle buses parked end to end). If you get too close, you will be helping the bear become used to being around people.

### 3. Drive the speed limit.

The most common human-related cause of death for a black bear in Yosemite is being hit by a car. Please slow down!

To report bear sightings, improper food storage, trash problems, and other bear-related problems, leave a message for the Bear Management Team at 209/372-0322.

## Mountain Lions

Mountain lions are a normal and important part of the park ecosystem. They are attracted to areas with healthy deer and raccoon populations, which include many areas of the park. Generally, they are calm, quiet, and elusive. Sightings are quite rare, so if you spot one, consider yourself privileged!



# Swiftwater: Avoid the Danger Zone

Feature article



Yosemite Search and Rescue team members train in whitewater. Unfortunately, rescues and recovery operations take place every year.   NPS photo by Adrienne Freeman

**About 20% of Yosemite’s search and rescue incidents are water-related, and after motor-vehicle accidents they are the leading cause of death in the park.**

The bottom line is, don’t take chances with swiftwater.

By Ranger **Adrienne Freeman**

Spring is here, and Yosemite is coming alive again. Grass that has lain under snow is growing, and warm breezes lap around us like gentle waves. And Yosemite Falls, arguably the most recognizable waterfall in our national park system, turns from a feeble trickle to a roaring flood. The water that flows this time of year—from rivers, to waterfalls, to flooded wetland meadows, is crucial to the health of the overall ecosystem and the life that it promotes is obvious everywhere. Red-winged blackbirds, perched noisily on cow parsnip, guard their nests buried deep in the grasses while black bears, still groggy from their winter sleep, start the year with the tender grass shoots, and deer use it to conceal their spring-born fawns.

As the warm weather returns and the rivers rise, the temptation becomes strong to catch a snooze in a sunny meadow and dip hot feet into the mean-

dering river after a long day of hiking. It’s at this time each year that the search and rescue staff slide into their neoprene wetsuits and get ready for the inevitable: when unsuspecting visitors meet icy waterways.

**Speaking from experience**  
When asked about swiftwater incidents, longtime search and rescue team member John Dill explains: “If people felt the same fear standing at the edge of a river as they do standing on the edge of El Capitan, we wouldn’t see the same problems.” His meaning is clear: standing next to, or being in, Yosemite’s waterways can be as dangerous as taking that last step into thin air from thousands of feet up: OUCH!

About 20% of Yosemite’s search and rescue incidents are water-related, and after motor-vehicle accidents they are the leading cause of death in the park. Why? As rescuers like John know, water hazards aren’t often visible and therefore our response to the hazards may not be intuitive, the way getting too close to a cliff edge is.

Keep the following things in mind to keep you and your family safe.

**Know the hazards**  
Mountain water is cold, even on a hot day. Even strong swimmers may quickly become too weak from hypothermia to swim. Moose Mutlow, swiftwater rescue instructor for Yosemite adds, “It’s a struggle even for rescuers to stay warm, and we have all the gear!”

- Even a slow current will take you where you may not want to go. Slow currents have immense power. Even water that appears calm and inviting can be dangerous.
- Watch for water hazards, like submerged tree branches, abandoned

cables, or narrow gaps between rocks, which can trap you or part of you underwater. The pressure from even a “slow” current can be enough to immobilize you against an obstacle and keep you submerged. Keep in mind that if even your foot gets entrapped and the current forces you down, the water only has to be deep enough to submerge your nose and mouth!

**Enjoy the river safely**  
Don’t underestimate the danger, or overestimate your own abilities: Confidence in a familiar environment can lead to danger in an unfamiliar one. For example, a strong ocean swimmer with no knowledge of swiftwater hazards might assume that their swimming skill is all they need. It’s not!

- Follow posted signs. If a sign says “NO SWIMMING,” don’t swim or wade! Hazards are often invisible on the surface and calm water may hide dangerous conditions. Areas are closed to swimming and wading in places (like Emerald Pool, above Vernal Fall) where multiple incidents occur each year. Additionally, launching a raft or boat out of the campgrounds may seem harmless, but a “No Launching” sign may actually be referring to dangerous conditions downstream.
- If you fall in, use the defensive swimming position: on your back, feet pointing downstream and on the surface (can you see your toes?).
- If you are boating or rafting, wear the required personal protective equipment (PPE): A life-jacket (personal floatation device or PFD) appropriate to the activity is the absolute minimum. Other equipment may include helmet, wetsuit, whistle, and knife.

*Learn more about current conditions at [www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/conditions.htm](http://www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/conditions.htm)*



Rescue team members depend on specialized gear to protect them.   NPS photo by Adrienne Freeman



# Supporting Your Park

Providing for Yosemite’s future

## Enhancing the Visitor Experience

It takes a legion of people working together to protect this special park for you and future generations of visitors. You, too, can extend your connection to Yosemite well after you return home by getting involved with the organizations that partner to preserve Yosemite.

**This publication was made possible by the Yosemite Park Partners listed on this page.** Read more below or visit [www.yosemitepartners.org](http://www.yosemitepartners.org) to learn more about helping these organizations provide for the future of Yosemite National Park.



### The Ansel Adams Gallery

The Ansel Adams Gallery, owned by the family of photographer Ansel Adams since 1902, is a center that celebrates the arts and the natural grandeur of our environment. It cultivates an aesthetic appreciation and concern for our world by offering visitors a unique variety of literature and art, as well as programs that inspire creativity. Visit online at [www.anseladamsgallery.com](http://www.anseladamsgallery.com).

### DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite (DNC) operates hotels, restaurants, sightseeing tours, recreational activities, interpretive programs, stores, shuttles and service stations in the park under contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior. DNC encourages its employees to develop a strong relationship with the park during their tenure. For more information and employment opportunities with DNC at Yosemite, visit online at [www.YosemitePark.com](http://www.YosemitePark.com).

### Yosemite Association

The Yosemite Association is a nonprofit membership organization that provides opportunities for people to learn about, enjoy, and experience Yosemite National Park and the Sierra Nevada. The Association celebrates the majesty and grandeur of this region through its visitor services, publications, outdoor classroom, and membership activities, which give people of all ages the chance to forge an enduring and inspirational connection to Yosemite. This, in turn, builds a commitment to the long-term preservation and vitality of Yosemite and our National Parks. Since 1923, the Association has provided important services and financial support to the National Park Service. Anyone who loves Yosemite and wishes to be become more closely involved and affiliated with the park will enjoy membership in the Association. For more information, visit park bookstores or [www.yosemite.org](http://www.yosemite.org).

### The Yosemite Fund

The Fund provides broad-based private funding from 27,000 members for projects that preserve, protect, or enhance Yosemite Park. Fund operations result in material improvement in the stewardship and quality of Yosemite’s natural, cultural or historical resources or the visitor experience. Fund grants repair trails, restore habitat, conduct scientific research, enhance visitor education, preserve park history, and protect wildlife. Since 1988 the Fund has provided over \$50 million to complete more than 200 projects. Visit online at [www.yosemitefund.org](http://www.yosemitefund.org).

### Yosemite Institute

Since 1971, thousands of school-age children have benefited from learning in “nature’s classroom” through the residential field-science programs offered by Yosemite Institute (YI). A YI experience strives to foster a life-long connection to the natural world—whether it is in Yosemite, on a city street or in our own backyards. YI also offers professional development for teachers, summer youth programs, backpacking adventures, community outreach programs and service learning projects. For more information, visit [www.yni.org/yi](http://www.yni.org/yi).

## Contact Us...

### The Ansel Adams Gallery

PO Box 455  
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209/372-4714 fax  
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### DNC Parks & Resorts at Yosemite

PO Box 578  
Yosemite, CA 95389  
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[www.yosemitepark.com](http://www.yosemitepark.com)

### Yosemite Association

PO Box 230  
El Portal, CA 95318  
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### The Yosemite Fund

155 Montgomery St. #1104  
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### Yosemite Institute

PO Box 487  
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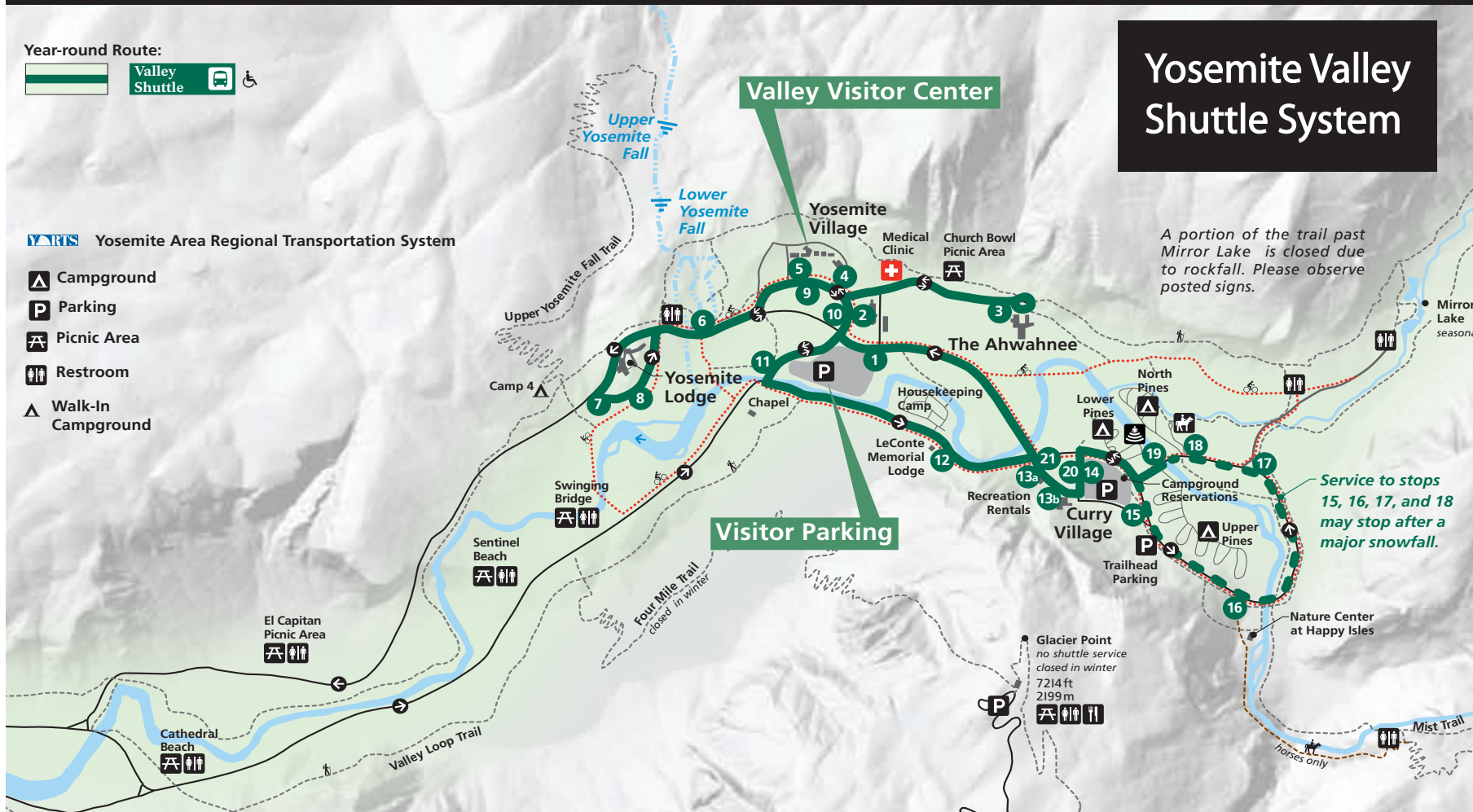


**THE YOSEMITE FUND®**  
*Providing for Yosemite’s Future*



Above right: Half Dome. Photo: Christine White Loberg





Shuttles run daily every 10-20 minutes depending on the time of day. The Valley Visitor Shuttle operates from 7:00am - 10:00pm. All shuttles follow the same route, serving stops in numerical order. Service may be affected by construction projects. Check shuttle stops for more information.

Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location	Stop #	Location
1	Visitor Parking	8	Yosemite Lodge	16	Happy Isles
2 10	Yosemite Village	11	Sentinel Bridge	17	Mirror Lake Trailhead
3	The Ahwahnee	12	LeConte / Housekeeping Camp	18	Stable
4	Degnan's Deli	13a 21	Recreation Rentals	19	Pines Campgrounds
5 9	Valley Visitor Center	13b	Curry Village		
6	Lower Yosemite Fall	14 20	Curry Village Parking		
7	Camp 4	15	Upper Pines Campground		

Note: Service to stops 15, 16, 17, and 18 may stop after a major snowfall.